

# **Fostering Stakeholder Engagement by Building Archivist Competencies in Technology: A Preliminary Discussion**

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## **Abstract:**

The purpose of this poster is to ignite discussion about archivists and their technological competencies. This line of inquiry stems from our recent research conducted in the area of archival reference services. We administered two surveys to Canadian academic archivists to understand their behaviour while engaged in reference activities. We found that there is no standard approach to reference as many archivists use multiple, institution-specific tools coupled with their own knowledge. Why are archivists not using more sophisticated information management systems and emerging technologies? Is there a link between the level of technological competency and the adoption of technology in archives?

Technological competencies are required for most areas of an archivist's professional practice. How does an archivist's level of technological competency affect their engagement with records, researchers, stakeholders and colleagues? What are the core technical knowledge, skills, and abilities that the profession requires in order to engage with our stakeholders in a meaningful way? Archivists must engage with their communities where they are and how they want to receive information, which is increasingly online.

We will present highlights from the literature, provide discussion questions to provoke meaningful conversations with our colleagues, and discuss our preliminary plans to explore this topic further. We are in the information-gathering phase of this project and we would like to engage with our peers at the research forum to learn about various perspectives on this topic. Ultimately, this will inform the next phase of this research project.

## **About the Authors:**

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